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We pick ten of the most snow-sure resorts in Europe and North America.

A warmer winter is forecast for resorts in Europe and North America, so you need to pick a resort with a good snow record. Peter Hardy offers suggestions.

If you're dreaming of your next ski holiday and wondering whether the snow cover in the Alps is going to be as bountiful as last season, do something else: go shopping, take the dog for a walk, because it's not looking good. But only if you believe the 'experts'.

The Met Office which predicted our 'barbecue summer' says that temperatures this winter are going to be 'above average' over much of Europe. The Swiss Federal Office of Meteorology shares the same view, but, with refreshing honesty, points out that last year it said a cold winter was 'highly improbable'. It proved to be one of the coldest on record.

Across the Atlantic it's an El Nio year. As a rule this warm Pacific current causes winter temperatures to rise on Canada's west coast. This is exactly what Whistler doesn't want in its final run-up to the Winter Olympics in February.

But don't take that too seriously, either: during the last El Nio in 2006-07, Whistler had one of its best seasons. And what's happening in Canada right now? It's been snowing heavily for the past couple of weeks across the Rockies and north-western seaboard nowhere more so than in Whistler.

Nearer home, a warm summer in the Alps has turned into a balmy autumn; glaciers such as Slden in Austria and Tignes in France have struggled to open. This time last year, by comparison, the Tyrol was already in the throes of winter. But don't cancel just yet; these gloomy predictions often count for little. To prove my point I awoke in Klosters on Wednesday to glorious winter. Some six inches of fresh snow covered the chalet roofs, and neighbouring Davos had twice as much.

But it's still early days a warm front could easily melt this autumn base. My advice is to take the weathermen out of the equation and play safe: pick a high resort with a good snow record especially if you are planning a holiday early or late in the season.

Ten of the most snow-sure resorts

Prices, unless otherwise stated, are per person and based on two sharing a double or

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twin room. for a week They include flights, transfers and half board.

1. Alpe d'Huez, France

Top lift 3,330m

Total lifts 81

Year-round skiing used to be popular in Europe but warmer summers have forced most glacial resorts to 'rest' their high-altitude pistes for part of the summer. Alpe d'Huez bucked the trend by building two quad chairs and a second cableway to reach the glacier. The idea was to secure snow-sure terrain for its winter guests and it has paid off. Skiing is guaranteed here from December until late April.

Getting there

Le Village is a new complex of five chalets built around a courtyard beside the bottom station of the main DMC gondola. From 819 with Snowline (0844 557 3118; www.snowline.co.uk)

2. Lech, Austria

Top lift 2,450m

Total lifts 85

It doesn't have a glacier but Lech sees seven metres of snow each winter and is traditionally one of the first resorts in Austria to open each November. The lift pass includes the more challenging pistes of neighbouring St Anton, and the village, set around a river and a church, has classic chocolate-box appeal.

Getting there

Hotel Bergheim has 17 rooms and a number of apartments for two to eight people. From 1,041 with Ski Dream (0845 277 3325; www.skidream.com)

3. Cervinia, Italy

Top lift 3,883m

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Total lifts 57 including Zermatt

Cervinia has fabulously long runs and one of the best snow records in Europe the village itself is at a heady 2,050m. It shares its ski area with Zermatt on the other side of the Matterhorn. The Italian skiing lacks challenge and is best suited to beginners and wobbly intermediates, who will gain enormous confidence. At the same time the resort's long runs, such as the five-mile Ventina, will turn even the strongest legs to spaghetti.

Zermatt provides a delightful alternative that guarantees skiing even when the snow gods are angry.

Getting there

Cervinia Petit Palais is a club hotel close to the gondola and cable-car. From 585. Crystal (0871 231 2256; www.crystalski.co.uk)

Zermatt Haus Gmatchi is a converted 18th-century barn, sleeping six, in the cobbled old town. From 549, excluding travel, with VIP (0844 557 3119; www.vip-chalets.com)

4. Val d'Isre/Tignes, France

Top lift 3,456m

Total lifts 90

The joint ski area of these two resorts opens on the last weekend of November and you can ski on the Grande Motte glacier in Tignes for 10 months of the year.

They are very different towns. Val has more traditional appeal, while Tignes is made up of a series of mainly purpose-built villages, at varying altitudes.

Getting there

Val d'Isre La Pierre de Compia is a chalet for eight people in a peaceful position in the Le Cret area of Val. From 699. Le Ski (01484 548996).

Tignes Le Nevada is an apartment complex at Val Claret. From 1,373 for a whole apartment sleeping six people. Ski Collection (0844 576 0175;

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www.skicollection.co.uk)

5. Slden, Austria

Top lift 3,250m

Total lifts 34

Slden is not as well known in Britain as Obergurgl, its high-profile neighbour in the tztal, an hour from Innsbruck airport. It has intermediate-friendly skiing and two glaciers that are incorporated into the main ski area.

Skiing this winter started late in October and will continue into May. The resort is suitable for families but also has considerable appeal to young people, with some of the liveliest aprs-ski in Austria.

Getting there

Hotel Grauer Bar is a comfortable traditional four-star with a small spa and a reputation for good half-board cuisine. From 788. Neilson (0844 879 8155; www.neilson.co.uk)

6. Saas Fee, Switzerland

Top lift 3,600m

Total lifts 22

This is one of the most delightful and snow-sure resorts in the Alps an ancient settlement in a spectacular location surrounded by no fewer than 13 peaks of 4,000m. The glacier provides skiing from July to May and it's popular in the summer with hikers. Access to the slopes is by modern cableways and an underground funicular.

The only drawback is that the glacial terrain makes the piste skiing limited for advanced skiers. However, the opportunities for ski touring with a guide are outstanding.

Getting there

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Chalet Jessica is a contemporary duplex apartment for eight people with spectacular views and is fully catered. From 675, travel not included, with Alpine Life (07801 982645; www.alpinelife.org)

7. Val Thorens, France

Top lift 3,230m

Total lifts 200

Val Thorens is not only the highest resort in the giant Trois Valles but at 2,300m the highest ski village in western Europe. Snow is guaranteed there, with links to Courchevel, Mribel and the Maurienne.

All this ski-in, ski-out convenience comes at a price. Much has been done to gentrify the purpose-built resort, but when the weather closes in it is a bleak spot.

Getting there

Mathilde, which sleeps eight, is part of a prestigious new three-chalet complex in a good position by the Plein Sud blue run, which cuts through the resort. From 529 with Ski Total (01252 618333; www.skitotal.com)

8. Snowbird, Utah

Top lift 3,352m

Total lifts 26

Snowbird, in Utah's Little Cottonwood Canyon, picks up a whopping 11 metres of snow each year and neighbouring Alta gets more than 13 metres, so sufficient cover is not a problem.

The volume of snow makes the area a place of pilgrimage for powder skiers, but not necessarily boarders. Frustratingly, the latter are still banned from traditional Alta.

Getting there

The Lodge at Snowbird is the original building from the Seventies but has been

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entirely renovated. From 999 (without meals) with Ski Independence (0131 243 8097; www.ski-i.com)

9. Flaine, France

Top lift 2,480m

Total lifts 73

Based on altitude alone, Flaine shouldn't be included in this list, but despite its modest top elevation it has a remarkable snow record. Its proximity to the Mont Blanc massif creates a favourable microclimate and around six metres falls each year.

The harsh diamond-shape apartment blocks, conceived 40 years ago by the architect Marcel Breuer, are not to everyone's taste, but Intrawest has created a whole new village beside the original.

Old apartments have been rejuvenated and the whole resort is in the middle of a renaissance.

Getting there

La Fort is an original apartment block that has been given a makeover. The two-bedroom Espace units sleep up to six people. Ski-drive price from 937 with Erna Low (0845 863 0525; www.ernalow.co.uk) for a Eurotunnel crossing and whole self-catering apartment.

10. St Moritz, Switzerland

Top lift 3,303m

Total lifts 56

Whenever a World Cup race has to be cancelled elsewhere because of a lack of snow, St Moritz is one of the first resorts considered by the organisers. Strangely, the most famous winter resort in the world is better known for the Cresta Run and bobsleigh than for its skiing. This takes place in three main areas and suits all standards.

Getting there

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The four-star Hotel Monopol is situated close to the Corviglia funicular. From 871 with Inghams (020 8780 4444; www.inghams.co.uk)

http://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/snowandski/6345237/Ski-holidays-the-most-snow-su-re-resorts.html?utm_source=telegraph&utm_medium=TD_puff&utm_campaign=skiresorts1609
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